

[R. F. Stevenson Jr.]

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Reference [??] - Range Lore - [??]

McGuire, Delise

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Briscoe County

District 17

"Interview"

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Bibliography

(Interview with R. F. Stevenson, Jr.)

The life of R. R. Stevenson, Jr., has been very interesting since he came to the county some 34 years ago. For several yers after foming to Briscoe county he lived with his father on a place four miles northeast of Silverton. Mr. Stevenson's father, R. F. Stevenson, Sr., died at Silverton several years ago, but is well remembered by all of the old-timers since he was a very prominent citizen.

After he had been in the county for some time Mr. Stevenson moved to a place on the douth south of Dinner Creek in the Canyons northeast of Silverton. Mr. Stevenson engaged in ranching and worked for about four years with the J. A. Ranch, one of the most famous ranches of the Panhandle section. In later years he acquired a farm in the Rock

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Creek community west of town. After moving to town he served as sheriff and tax collector for three terms, and has lived in town since that time.

While he was working on the J. A. Ranch he said the wolves were so bad that they would [???] devour anything that they could find, and men were kept on the ranch to do nothing but trap wolves. Babe Robbins was one of the well known J. A. trappers, as was Luke Hollins [??] , both being employed on the ranch as trappers for several years.

Ranch life in those days was what was required to test the nerve and endurance of a man, and if a man could stand up to the real ranch life he was a real man. Men at that time actually could do more real work than they can today, because they were given a certain amount of work to do and they knew that they had it to do [???] 2 or else lose his job. "And they were all jobs in those daya, there were no "Postitions".

He said that the men of those days were toughened up to where they could stand lots of work and abuse. The work in which they were engaged was dangeours, now and then someone would [?] be hurt by a horse throwing hime, or by his horse stepping into a prairie dog hole. When a man was thrown and got up "Cussing" the other men gave him no attention, but when he was hurt badly enough that he could not "Cuss" then they knew he was in a critical condition.

Mr. Stevenson takes a great delight in hunting, and tells of many thrilling hunting trips. Perhaps the most interesting one is a bear hunt [?] which took place in the Tule Canyon. The party was composed of T. J. Braidfoot, R. F. Stevenson, Sr., Fred [?] Biffle, Harry Braidfoot, Frank Galloway and Bob Stevenson. Four bears were killed. Mr. Stevenson says that his father and Mr. Braidfoot killed three of them and that he was lucky enough to kill the fourth. For sometime after that they had all of the bear meat they wanted.

At that time according to Mr. Stevenson there were many deer in the canyon, and he tells a very interesting story about the ocassion on which he killed the first deers. A party composed of Henry Seal, G. W. Smith, Eph Stevenson and himself [?] had gone on a deer

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hunt. He had a "32" Winchester and the others told him he c could not kill a deer with it, but he killed the first deer that was killed on the trip, it was also the first deer he had ever killed, "And I am very proud of the accomplishment! 3 Mr. Stevenson said that he also got his share of antelope and other wild game, as well as rattlesnakes. He dried lots of antelope meat and kept it for later use. It would keep indefinitely, and, according to him, was the best meat he ever ate.

In those days all the supplies came from Amarillo or Childress, and the trip required several days. Mr. Stevenson raised lots of little white beans which he hauled to these points and traded for potatoes and other things he needed, receiving a credit of three cents per pound on the beans and giving \$1.25 per hundred pounds for potatoes and \$1.75 per hundred for flour.

The young people of those days did not go as much as young folks of today, but they always had Fourth of July picnics, and he believes that the people at that time had more pleasure and enjoyment than they do today.

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